

3/18/81

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----354652 181720Z /43

O 181540Z MAR 81
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8867

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1922

DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065: RDS-3 3/18/91 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJDF: [REDACTED] FOLLOW-UP ON REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1899

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. REFTEL REPORTS THE STATEMENT TO THE EMBASSY BY HECTOR PINON THAT HIS FATHER AND BROTHER WERE THREATENED WITH DEATH BY HECTOR'S CAPTORS IF THEY DID NOT CEASE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

3. GIVEN BOTH THE RECENT HISTORY OF ARGENTINA AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE PINON FAMILY TO PUBLICIZE ITS EXPERIENCE, WE DEEMED IT PRUDENT TO BRING THIS DEATH THREAT TO THE ATTENTION OF SENIOR LEADERS OF THE GOA. ACCORDINGLY, AN EMBOFF CALLED ON A MEMBER OF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S STAFF WHO HAS BEEN OUR POINT OF CONTACT IN SUCH CASES. THE EMBOFF OUTLINED THE THREAT, PREFACING HIS REMARKS WITH THE COMMENT THAT WE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO EVALUATE ITS GRAVITY BUT FELT AN OBLIGATION TO BRING IT TO THE GOA'S ATTENTION.

4. THE ARGENTINE SAID THAT THE EMBASSY IS PROBABLY THE ONLY

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CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH SUCH REPORTS CAN REACH THE
PRESIDENCY. SINCE OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE IN EFFECT

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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ALLIES ON THIS KIND OF ISSUE, HE WAS APPRECIATIVE THAT WE HAD BROUGHT IT TO HIM. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE OFFERED THE ESTIMATE THAT THE THREATS WERE PROBABLY INTENDED ONLY TO FRIGHTEN THE PINONS INTO SILENCE. THE EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT THE THREATS HAD NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE. IN FACT, THE FAMILY SEEMED TO BE SEARCHING OUT PUBLICITY, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT THOUGHT THAT PUBLICITY WAS ITS BEST PROTECTION. THE ARGENTINE REPLIED, "THEY ARE RIGHT; PUBLICITY IS THEIR BEST PROTECTION." HE THEN REPEATED THE VIEW THAT THE THREAT WAS PROBABLY AN EMPTY ONE.

5. COMMENT: THE REPORTED DEATH THREAT IS NOW IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE AVAILABLE CHANNEL. EVEN IF OUR CONTACT EVALUATED THE THREAT AS BEING MORE SERIOUS THAN HE ALLEGED HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT ADMIT THIS TO US. WE DO NOT EXPECT HIM TO SHARE WITH US WHAT, IF ANY ACTION, THE PRESIDENCY MAY TAKE.
RUSER

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